
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUBMITS ESSA PLAN

The Iowa Department of Education has submitted the State's 243-page Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan to the U.S. Department of Education, as required by the 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The plan must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education, and must include a statewide accountability system for districts and schools. The Iowa plan calls for school districts to be identified as "Targeted," "Comprehensive," or "Not Identified" on the following indicators:

- Student Participation
- Academic Achievement
- Student Growth
- Graduation Rate
- Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency

Two additional indicators, Conditions for Learning and Postsecondary Readiness, will be phased in over the next few years.

The ESSA plan must also address assessment, funding, and supports for struggling schools and districts. Assessment goals set out in the plan include:

- Increasing reading and math proficiency rates for all students by half a percentage point each year over the next five years, for a total increase of 2.5% and a whole percentage point, or 5.0% over five years for some student subgroups, including economically disadvantaged students, children with disabilities, and English language learners.
- A 95.0% graduation rate for all students and a 97.0% graduation rate for students taking an additional year to graduate.
- A five percentage point increase in the percent of English language learners proficient in English over the next five years.

The State's full ESSA plan and other resources, including previous drafts of the plan, can be found [here](#).

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